

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 035322
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA: TEXT RECEIVED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY ARA:FRANCIS J. MCNEIL
S/S -O:LFLEISCHER
ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN

-----099365 100215Z /14

O R 100128Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOSAIRES
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035322

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR WHITE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, PA

SUBJECT: REPLY TO LETTER FROM STROESSNER TO PRESIDENT
CARTER
REF: STATE 20824

1. PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPLY TO STROESSNER WAS RECEIVED FROM
NSC TODAY. AMBASSADOR LOPEZ ESCOBAR IS OUT OF THE CITY
UNTIL FEBRUARY 13. SINCE WE ARE UNABLE TO DELIVER THE
LETTER TO LOPEZ ESCOBAR BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, THE
FOLLOWING TEXT IS BEING CABLED FOR DELIVERY BY YOU TO
FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES. THE ORIGINAL LETTER WILL BE
GIVEN TO THE PARAGUAYAN EMBASSY TODAY FOR POUCHING TO
ASUNCION.

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2. BEGIN TEXT.
DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:
THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFER TO RECEIVE MY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO OBSERVE PARAGUAY'S FEBRUARY 12 GENERAL ELECTIONS.
I APPRECIATE THE SPIRIT IN WHICH YOU HAVE MADE THE OFFER,

BUT ELECTIONS ARE ESSENTIALLY AN INTERNAL AFFAIR. THE PRESENCE OF SPECIAL ENVOYS FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY COULD ONLY BE MISINTERPRETED BY THE WORLD AT LARGE, EVEN THOUGH THE VISIT TOOK PLACE AT THE REQUEST OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT.

THESE CONSIDERATIONS LEAD ME TO DECLINE YOUR OFFER REGRETFULLY--BUT I DO HAVE AN INFORMAL SUGGESTION THAT YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER. YOU MIGHT ACHIEVE THE SAME END BY OFFERING THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS FULL ACCESS TO THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, ELECTION DAY VOTING, AND THE COUNTING OF BALLOTS. I SHOULD IMAGINE THAT SUCH ACCESS WOULD ATTRACT THE UNITED STATES PRESS, AS WELL AS OTHERS.

YOUR REFERENCE TO OUR CONVERSATION LAST SEPTEMBER BRINGS TO MIND ANOTHER POINT--THE SETTING OF A DATE FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S VISIT TO PARAGUAY. NATURALLY THIS IS A MATTER TO BE RESOLVED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMISSION. BUT YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE SPOKE TOGETHER OF OUR URGENT INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. AND THE RECENT VISITS OF COMMISSION TEAMS TO PANAMA AND EL SALVADOR ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF A GROWING APPRECIATION OF THE COMMISSION'S VALUE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. MY OWN ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STRONGLY THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE, AND THE COMMISSION'S ROLE IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF THE HEMISPHERE IN THIS REGARD.
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I DID APPRECIATE THE REMINDER OF YOUR EARLIER OFFER ON THE ELECTION, AND I HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MY REASONS FOR NOT ACCEPTING.

SINCERELY,
(SIGNED) JIMMY CARTER

HIS EXCELLENCY
GENERAL OF THE ARMY ALFREDO STROESSNER
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY
ASUNCION.
END TEXT.
VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 10 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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